

Popularity of Overlapping Surgery — Substantial Support or Potential Barrier for Young Surgeons' Growth?

Yue Zhou¹
Zhong Jia^{*2}
Chaojun Kong³

*Department of Hepato-biliary Surgery, Hangzhou First People's Hospital, Nanjing Medical University Affiliated Hangzhou Hospital & Zhejiang Chinese Medicine Affiliated 4th Clinical Teaching Hospital, Hangzhou 310006, China

Introduction

In my view of point, overlapping surgery often needs a definitive “specialist” to perform the key part of surgery for different patients one by one even if other junior surgeons might have abilities to finish it. By comparison, concurrent surgery aims to save operative time or medical cost that often needs lots of surgeons but not one definitive specialist to perform joint-operations for one patient in one single surgery or lots of operations for multiple patients simultaneously. Sometimes it's not easy to very clearly make difference from them because cross-part between both of their implications. Obviously, it's frequently observed by us. But herewith, I would like to emphasize their own unique motivation that may be better to understand or define them. Simply in a word, the protagonist of overlapping surgery is one specialist who performs all key procedures for different patients, while the primary operator of concurrent surgery is one or more specialists who conduct(s) joint-operations for one patient or lots of surgeons in a work team perform different operations at the same time just aiming for cost-effectiveness of medical care. Obviously, the former more likely arouses public attention or remains controversial due to its potential loophole of motivation or its unnecessaries.

Summary

The evolving story of overlapping surgery described by Mello et al [1] indeed unveiled the tip of the iceberg mainly due to its popularity and rich return for majority of senior surgeons. But it also may embrace problematic risks in advertent harms in real world. At first glance, thanks to this instructive and educational analysis on overlapping surgery, many viewpoints are worthy to be learned from practices.[2][3] On second look, some issues still left readers confusing. For instance, who on earth often performs overlapping surgery? Why?

As a matter of fact, the primary surgeons are always “experienced masters” or “skillful craftsmen”, whose technique-art on critical part of surgery will be favorable to promise “safety and efficiency” for patients who have to be operated on immediately. Overlapping surgery allows this kind of surgeons to save a life in time. But if not necessary, overlapping surgery should be restricted not only to ensure quality of surgery but also to cultivate trainees' ability. In addition, conflict of interests may be a social problem if a patient ultimately suffers from surgery-related complications or even fatal consequence. The key to resolve the dilemma is to identify a detailed rule of law to ensure everyone's legal rights in every step of this process.

Despite that overlapping surgery may reduce young surgeons' opportunity to practice operation; it is still worth being performed as it allows health care staffs to make full use of flow of higher technology-art in good order. Besides, it will shine with the introduction of relevant laws and regulation some day in the future. If do so, it will give the youngsters the edge due to its substantial support.

References

1. Mello MM, Livingston EH. The Evolving Story of Overlapping Surgery. JAMA 2017; 318(3):233-234.
2. Zhang AL, Sing DC, Dang DY, Ma CB, Black D, et al. Overlapping Surgery in the Ambulatory Orthopaedic Setting. J Bone Joint Surg Am. 2016 Nov; 98(22):1859-1867.
3. Kent M, Whyte R, Fleishman A, Tomich D, Forrow L, et al. Public Perceptions of Overlapping Surgery. J Am Coll Surg. 2017 May; 224(5):771-778.

Article Information

DOI: 10.31021/ijsp.20181106
Article Type: Short Communication
Journal Type: Open Access
Volume: 1 Issue: 1
Manuscript ID: IJSP-1-106
Publisher: Boffin Access Limited

Received Date: March 20, 2018
Accepted Date: March 27, 2018
Published Date: Marchh 30, 2018

*Corresponding author:

Zhong Jia
Hangzhou Huansha Road 261,310006,
Department of Hepato-biliary Surgery
10th Floor of No.1 building of Hangzhou First
People's Hospital
Zhejiang Province, China
Fax:+86-0571-87914773
Mobile Phone: +86-13958114181
Email: jiazhong20058@hotmail.com

Citation: Zhou Y, Jia Z, Kong C. Popularity of Overlapping Surgery— Substantial Support or Potential Barrier for Young Surgeons' Growth? Int J Surg Proced. 2018 Mar; 1(1):106

Copyright: © 2018 Zhou Y, et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 international License, which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.